

# **DSS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER Children's Services #08-05**

---

**TO: COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**SUBJECT: 2005 FAMILY SUPPORT AND CHILD WELFARE  
LEGISLATIVE  
CHANGES**

**DATE: September 28, 2005**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: Various Dates as Indicated**

**ATTENTION: Work First and Children's Services Program Managers,  
Supervisors, and Social Workers**

This administrative letter is to provide information regarding legislative actions during the 2005 session that impact the state-wide implementation of the Multiple Response System (MRS), Work First, Child Welfare, Adoption and Foster Care. New legislation as well as substantive clarifying changes to existing legislation is outlined. The effective dates of these laws vary and are indicated below.

It is important to remember that individual counties may not begin assigning reports to the family assessment response until the social workers conducting them have received the required MRS policy and Cornerstones 3A training. We encourage you not to begin conducting family assessments until after the first of the new year, even if your agency has staff that have received the required training.

There have been several changes that affect Foster Care and Adoption policy. Requirements for criminal background checks have been expanded, an additional grounds for terminating parental rights has been added, adoption procedures have been streamlined, juvenile court procedures have been clarified and expedited, and child custody and guardianship jurisdiction has been clarified.

The General Assembly has approved the North Carolina Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan for the period of October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2007. Minimal changes were made to the TANF State Plan for this biennium.

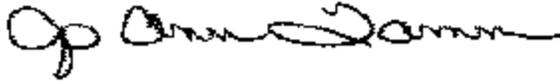
The statutes can be accessed through the North Carolina General Assembly's website at: <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/homePage.pl>

--	--	--

<b>2005 Legislative Changes that Impact DSS Policy and Practice</b>		
<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Effective</b>
S622 (SL 2005-276)	Enacted Budget <a href="http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2005/Bills/Senate/PDF/S622v9.pdf">http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2005/Bills/Senate/PDF/S622v9.pdf</a>	7/1/05
H 277 (SL 2005-55)	Establish Child Assessment <a href="http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H277v4.html">http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H277v4.html</a>	10/1/05
H 451(SL 2005-114)	Adoptive Families DHHS/ Criminal Checks <a href="http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H451v5.html">http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H451v5.html</a>	6/24/05
H 97 (SL 2005-146)	Terminate the rights of parent/ murder parent <a href="http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H97v4.html">http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H97v4.html</a>	6/30/05
H 532 (SL 2005-166)	Adjust Adoption Procedure <a href="http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H532v4.html">http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H532v4.html</a>	10/1/05
H 806 (SL 2005-167)	Mediation Amendment <a href="http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2005/Bills/Senate/HTML/S806v4.html">http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2005/Bills/Senate/HTML/S806v4.html</a>	7/7/05
H 1221 (SL 2005-228)	Parenting Coordinator / DV <a href="http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H1221v7.html">http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H1221v7.html</a>	10/1/05
H 1209 (SL 2005-130)	Sex. Battery / Sex Of. Registry <a href="http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H1209v4.html">http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H1209v4.html</a>	12/1/05
S 776 (SL 2005-226)	Amend Indecent Exposure Law <a href="http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2005/Bills/Senate/HTML/S776v6.html">http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2005/Bills/Senate/HTML/S776v6.html</a>	12/1/05
S 1048 (SL 2005-414)	Identify Theft Protection Act <a href="http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2005/Bills/Senate/HTML/S1048v5.html">http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2005/Bills/Senate/HTML/S1048v5.html</a>	12/1/05
H 661 (SL 2005-399)	Responsible Inv. Expunction Process <a href="http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H661v4.html">http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H661v4.html</a>	10/1/05
H 801 (SL 2005-320)	Child Custody/ guardianship <a href="http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H801v2.html">http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H801v2.html</a>	10/1/05
H 1150 (SL 2005-398)	Expedite Juv. Court <a href="http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H1150v2.html">http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H1150v2.html</a>	10/1/05

Please contact your Work First Program Representative, Children's Program Representative or the Work First and CPS Policy Team at (919) 733-4622 if you have questions about this letter.

Sincerely,



Jo Ann Lamm, Section Chief

Family Support and Child Welfare Services

JAL/ ttr

**Attachments**

cc: Pheon Beal

Sherry S. Bradsher

Sarah Barham

Local Business Liaisons

Family Support and Child Welfare Team Leaders

Children's Program Representatives

Work First Program Representatives